



MASSWILDLIFE

MASSACHUSETTS HUNTER EDUCATION PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

IN THE KNOW

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Time to Think about scheduling 2019 Courses

Massachusetts Division
of Fisheries & Wildlife
Hunter Education
Program Newsletter

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It's that time of year again when we ask you to begin scheduling courses for the coming year.

We have received information from a few teams who have scheduled courses for winter and early spring and even if your team has been considering a late January or February course, you still have time to submit requests.



We ask all teaching teams to please collaborate, discuss 2019 course schedules, and consider sending in course information well in advance of your courses. (A 2019 calendar is provided for your reference).

The MA Hunter Education Program has hundreds of public requests for Basic Hunter Education courses across the state and we find that many of our potential

students look for course information early and want to be notified about courses several weeks in advance. We now typically send all notices at least 8 weeks prior to the start of a course. While some courses only take a

few weeks to fill we have noticed that some do need 50-60 days to fill.

So, although we specify that all requests be received a minimum of six weeks prior, we ask that you submit your

request as far in advance as you are able; twelve or more weeks is optimal.

You can find a copy of the "request to conduct a course" form on the instructor resources webpage or you can complete your request online and submit it electronically <https://www.mass.gov/forms/conduct-a-hunter-education-course> or you can simply call the office (508.389.7820) and we will submit the request for you.

2019 Licenses & Guide Available Dec. 1st



Starting December 1st, you can purchase your 2019 licenses online through MassFishHunt, or at a license vendor location, or at a MassWildlife office. During December, it is possible to purchase either a 2018 or a 2019 license; so, take care when making your purchase. As a reminder, minors 15-17 years of age may not purchase hunting or sporting licenses online. A minor's license is only available at vendor locations and certain documentation must be provided when making a license purchase. Details are given in the Massachusetts Guide to Hunting, Freshwater Fishing and Trapping Laws. An advanced copy is provided with this mailing.

IN THE KNOW

Welcome New Instructors

Program Staff conducted an Introductory Workshop for New Volunteers on October 27, 2018 at the Westborough Field Headquarters .

During these workshops we cover all aspects of the program to insure every new instructor will have the knowledge and skills to be able to teach at a Basic Hunter Education Course. New instructors learn about program information and policies, curriculum requirements and how to use the instructor manual which includes a review of the new lesson plan format.

Eight new instructors joined our program as a result and they are ready to help. Please join us in welcoming the following new instructors :

- **Dale Chayes from Concord**
- **Laura Connolly from Boxborough**
- **Jay Dreschnack from Worthington**
- **Christine Hodgkins from Dudley**
- **John Mulloy from Billerica**
- **Steven Noyes from Brewster**
- **Joseph O'Neil from Salem**
- **Paul Pescatore from Bedford**



*Pictured Back Row L-R: Steve Noyes, John Mulloy, Paul Pescatore , Jay Dreschnack , Joseph O'Neil , Dale Chayes
Front Row L-R: Christine Hodgkins, Laura Connolly*

This training fully prepares the new volunteer instructors to join an existing team and to immediately help teach a course – no “apprenticeship” time is necessary. We ask our Team Leaders to please invite new instructors living in your area to join the teaching team. Their contact information will be included in the 2019 Instructor Directory available in January but in the meantime you can contact the program office at 508-389-7820 for their information.

Lastly, we appreciate your efforts to recruit new volunteers. Please continue to send all who are interested to us directly so we may expedite the application process.

Drop off toys for kids in need at MassWildlife FHQ

Get in the holiday spirit by donating a toy to a child in need! MassWildlife's Field Headquarters (FHQ) located at 1 Rabbit Hill Rd, Westborough is a Toys for Tots drop-off location. MassWildlife FHQ is open Monday through Friday, 8 AM – 4:30 PM, and is accepting toys for children in need through December 7th. If you love the outdoors, consider passing on the tradition to the next generation with the gift of a fishing pole or a pair of binoculars.

The mission of the U. S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program is to collect new, unwrapped toys each year, and distribute those toys as Christmas gifts to less fortunate children in the community in which the campaign is conducted.



This year, MassWildlife joins other partners in Worcester County as a toy drop-off location. Collected toys will be donated to children in need in Worcester County.

All gifts should be unwrapped. Toys for Tots will not accept realistic looking weapons or gifts with food. **Worcester Toys for Tots is most in need of toys for: infant boys/girls ages 0–2; boys ages 9–11, 12+; and girls ages 6–8, 9–11, 12+.** And Barbie dolls, matchbox cars, stuffed animals, and toys for children ages 3–5 are least needed. To stay up-to-date with the Worcester Toys for Tots campaign, visit their website or follow them on Worcester Toys for Tots Facebook..

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1 Rabbit Hill Road | Westborough, MA 01581 | mass.gov/masswildlife

Inclement Weather Procedure and Guidance

Severe weather can cause major disruptions in New England. Each year we experience weather events, usually in the winter, that prompts us to cancel and re-schedule one or more of our hunter education courses. It's important that all Team Leaders, and instructors, know how the program will react to such events and what steps can be taken to alleviate any problems

Please consider the following:

- Teaching teams should monitor weather conditions in their area. As a rule of thumb, cancel a class if public school or other events in that town have been cancelled due to weather. Program staff will also check for possible weather disruptions and will contact the team leader of the course to discuss whether or not to cancel a class.
- The Team Leader of a course must collaborate with the Hunter Ed Program informing the office about all schedule changes. Sometimes the weather causes other problems such as power outages or issues with the facilities roads or parking lots. Please let us know.
- The program office will assist by contacting students about the change/issue and we will also revise the



agency website immediately. If the weather event occurs before the start of a course we will have the best contact information available but if it occurs after the course started, the team leader will have the most up to date information and will need to share it with the office. Please provide the names and phone numbers of all registered students so we can contact them.

- Helpful actions that can be taken by the facility/club hosting the event include - a sign on the front door or at the gated entrance and a message on the answering machine.
 - The Teaching team may need to re-schedule a portion of the course to meet the 12-hour minimum. This rarely occurs because most courses are typically about 15 hours long, so simply adding some hours to the remaining scheduled course dates may suffice.
- In order to keep the students up to date with the course materials, team leaders should assign homework for the missed day. This may also alleviate the need for an additional class day since the students can learn some of the material on their own. Let the program office know which chapters/pages the student should read and we, in turn, will inform the students when we send notice about the revised class schedule.

Safe Hunting Starts with Hunter Education

INTERNATIONAL HUNTER EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

IHEA-USA

Responsible Hunting

www.ihea-usa.org

IN THE KNOW

News from MassWildlife

CWD reminder for deer hunters that hunt out of state

To keep Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) from spreading to Massachusetts, it is illegal to import deer parts (from any cervid species including white-tailed deer, mule deer, black-tailed deer, caribou, moose, elk, etc.) from any state or province where CWD has been detected. This includes MD, NY, OH, PA, VA, WV, and many other states and provinces – view a map of CWD positive areas in North America. Live deer of any species may not be brought into Massachusetts for any purpose.

You may bring in meat which has been cut and wrapped (commercially or privately), deboned meat, hides with no head attached, cleaned skull caps (no muscle or brain tissue attached) with attached antlers, antlers with no muscle or brain tissue attached, or fixed taxidermy mounts.

CWD is a contagious neurological disease that is 100% fatal to cervid species. It attacks the brains of infected animals, causing them to exhibit abnormal behavior, become emaciated, and eventually die. Infected deer can spread the infectious agents through urine, feces, saliva, etc. for months before showing clinical symptoms. The infectious agents are in very high concentrations in the brain and spinal tissue, so an infected carcass left on the landscape can be a major problem. The infectious agents can remain in the soil for over 10 years and can be taken up into the leaves of plants that deer eat. No CWD infected deer have been found in Massachusetts.

If you see a deer or moose in Massachusetts exhibiting any signs of this disease or any other disease, please contact MassWildlife at (508) 389-6300.

Youth Deer Hunt preliminary harvest report

The 2018 Youth Deer Hunt Day was held on September 29. This unique opportunity allows young hunters to hunt deer with their own permit during a special one-day season that precedes the Commonwealth's regular annual deer hunting seasons. MassWildlife issued 1,115 youth permits; 125 harvested deer were reported online. Deer reported at physical check stations will be tallied and added to the total at the conclusion of the regular deer hunting seasons.

Trout spawning underway at state hatcheries

MassWildlife operates five fish hatcheries in the state, located in Sandwich, Belchertown, Montague, Sunderland, and Palmer. Spawning is underway at the Palmer and Sandwich hatcheries to produce more than 1.5 million fertile brook trout, brown trout and tiger trout eggs. These eggs, coupled with rainbow trout eggs obtained through a cooperative program with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, are reared at MassWildlife's five hatcheries to produce trout for stocking rivers, streams, lakes, and ponds throughout the Commonwealth during the spring and fall. Trained MassWildlife staff extract eggs from females and milt from males and combine them with water to begin the fertilization process. After incubating for about two months, the eggs hatch into fry and after growing in the hatchery for 1.5–2.5 years they will be ready for stocking.



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:

The Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program provides funding to conserve and manage fish, wildlife, and their habitats for the use and enjoyment of current and future generations; funding is derived from a portion of hunting and fishing equipment sales.

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